United Nations S/2018/1024

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 13 November 2018 from the representatives of Belgium, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, South Africa and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We, the 10 current elected members of the Security Council and the five incoming elected members of the Security Council — Belgium, Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden and South Africa — have been elected with large margins by the General Assembly and, as such, bring added legitimacy to the Security Council. We are committed to taking this responsibility seriously, including in the conduct of our chairmanships of the Council's subsidiary bodies.

Currently, the incoming members are consulting with members of the Security Council on the distribution of the chairmanships of the subsidiary bodies for the coming year. In his note S/2017/507, the President of the Security Council stated that the consultation process for the selection of the Chairs should take place in a "balanced, transparent, efficient and inclusive way". We extend our gratitude to Kuwait, as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and the United States, as coordinator of the five permanent members, for having conducted the consultation process on behalf of the Council in line with and in the spirit of note S/2017/507.

The 10 current elected members and the five incoming elected members have consistently emphasized the need for fair burden-sharing and an equal distribution of work among all members of the Security Council, including its permanent members. This principle should apply to the distribution of the chairmanships of the subsidiary bodies of the Council where, as a general rule, no member should chair more than two subsidiary bodies, as well as to the so-called "penholderships". The call for a more equal distribution of work is not new and has been persistently brought forward by members and non-members of the Security Council, including at the open debate on working methods of the Security Council presided over by Kuwait, in February 2018. It has also been a recurrent topic of discussion in the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. We strongly believe that a more equal distribution of work among all members is not just a matter of fair burden-sharing, but that it will also positively affect the overall effectiveness of the Council.

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Furthermore, the Security Council should make better use of the expertise that the Chairs of sanctions committees develop on the situations discussed in their respective committees, and should consider promoting their role as penholders and the automaticity of their role as co-penholders on the related dossiers, should they so choose. We see merit in a discussion among members of the Council, if possible, at the level of the permanent representatives, to consider this and other possibilities in order to ensure a more balanced and fair distribution of work among all members.

Guided by the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, we remain fully committed to promoting the Security Council as a body that serves the entire United Nations membership.

We have the honour to request the circulation of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Pecsteen de Buytswerve**
Permanent Representative of Belgium

(*Signed*) Sacha Sergio **Llorentty Solíz**
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

(*Signed*) Kacou Houadja Léon **Adom**
Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire

(*Signed*) José Singer **Weisinger**
Representative of the Dominican Republic

(*Signed*) Anatolio **Ndong Mba**
Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea

(*Signed*) Taye Atskeselassie **Amde**
Permanent Representative of Ethiopia

(*Signed*) Christoph **Heusgen**
Permanent Representative of Germany

(*Signed*) Dian Triansyah **Djani**
Permanent Representative of Indonesia

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) Mansour **Alotaibi**
Permanent Representative of Kuwait

(*Signed*) Karel Jan Gustaaf **van Oosterom**
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Permanent Representative of Peru

(*Signed*) Joanna **Wronecka**
Permanent Representative of Poland

(*Signed*) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**
Permanent Representative of South Africa

(*Signed*) Olof **Skoog**
Permanent Representative of Sweden